



Work Package 8: Institutional Behaviours and Cultures

Why:

The UK NEA perceived the problem of how to better safeguard ecosystems to be partly about new knowledge development, but also about inadequate knowledge utilisation: “Ecosystem services are critically important to our well being... but are consistently undervalued in conventional economic analysis and decision making” (UK NEA, 2011, p.13). Since the late 1980s, policy appraisal processes have been critical mechanisms for integrating knowledge into policy decision making. Moreover, the importance of appraisal is explicitly recognised in the Natural Environment White Paper (Defra 2011, Ch 3.), and in related guidance in the Treasury’s Green Book and its supplementary guidance on the ecosystems services. It is absolutely vital that policy relevant lessons are learnt from experiences with policy appraisal, otherwise time and resources could be wasted as the government seeks to act on the Natural Environment White Paper.

What:

Aim:

Investigate capacities and constraints to embedding consideration of ecosystem services in policy decision making through appraisal, with a specific focus on the role played by institutional behaviours and cultures as both barriers and enablers.

Summary:

This project will investigate capacities and constraints to the routine embedding consideration of ecosystem services in policy decision-making through appraisal, with a specific focus on the role played by institutional behaviours and cultures as both barriers and enablers. The importance of appraisal for integrating ecosystems knowledge into policy-making is explicitly recognised in the Natural Environment White Paper and in related guidance in the Treasury’s Green Book. Therefore, this project will review the relevant literature, examine how an ecosystems approach is being applied currently and, with the aid of interviews, investigate the role of different institutional cultures and behaviours in shaping the embedding of an ecosystems approach in appraisal and policy-making more widely. In so doing, pathways for improving ecosystems services knowledge in decision-making and everyday behaviours will be explored.

Outputs/outcomes:

Output/outcome	Status	Opportunity for input	Anticipated audience(s)
Stakeholder workshop	To be held on Autumn 2013	Open Invite to stakeholders	National and Local Government, NGO Stakeholders
Drawing lessons for policy makers	1 st draft to be complete in June 2013	Open to peer review as part of the zero order draft	National and Local Government, NGO Stakeholders
Two academic papers	To be completed by Spring 2014	Academic peer review	Academic,
Two page summary brief	To be completed in Autumn 2013		Policy makers at national and local governance levels & NGO stakeholders

Methods/tools being developed:

- This project will not be developing new methods and tools. It will however, explore the impacts of institutional behaviours and cultures on tool/method selection and use.

Anticipated Case Studies:

- This work package does not follow a case study approach, instead it focuses on broader lessons and experiences from people implementing the Natural Environment White Paper and/or conducting policy appraisal at different governance levels.

Links to other Work packages:

- WP1: How to input asset-check to wider policy making
- WP4: Understanding of cultural values from natural capital assets
- WP5: How do shared values influence uptake of ecosystems knowledge in decision-making? How do decision-makers perceive plural values?
- WP6: Characterising decision-making in scenarios
- WP7: Effect of culture and behaviour on implementation of response options
- WP9/WP10: Culture change for successful use of tools; developing indicators for tools

Team:**Principal Investigator:**

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Team Members:

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Resource allocated: £100,000